

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HERON et al

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For: ELECTRONIC BALLOTING

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April 16, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the respective counts of answered calls are in the form of subtotals on a regional basis; wherein the step of receiving messages from computer terminals includes substeps of identifying the respective source addresses, grouping the received messages on a corresponding regional basis; and wherein the combining step comprises the substeps of summing, for each of the regions and for each of said candidates, the

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